



News Release

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Mississippi Valley Division/
Mississippi River Commission
cemvd-pa@mvd02.usace.army.mil

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Contact: Bobbie Galford

Phone: 601-634-5760

Banks promoted in MVD



VICKSBURG, Miss., August 14, 2001 - Larry E. Banks was recently selected as Chief of the Water Management Team, Technical Engineering and Construction Division, at the Mississippi Valley Division/Mississippi River Commission (MVD/MRC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Banks' responsibilities will include coordinating, directing and controlling water management aspects of navigation, flood control, ecosystem restoration and other water resource projects of the Corps throughout the Mississippi Valley.

Banks is recognized nationally as an expert in water management, hydrology and hydraulics and river engineering. He will serve as the technical advisor and consultant to the MVD/MRC Commander, division staff, district offices and Corps Headquarters in matters relating to these fields in the Mississippi River Valley.

MVD is responsible for Corps water resources programs and water management in a 370,000-square-mile area that includes portions of 12 states; its boundary extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico with drainage from over 41 percent of the United States. District offices are headquartered in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.

Prior to coming to the Mississippi Valley Division, Banks served as Chief of the Hydraulics Branch for the Corps' Vicksburg District.

He played a key role in the District's hydraulic design of the Lake Chicot and Tensas Cocodrie pumping plants in Arkansas and Louisiana, respectively, the Upper Yazoo Project in Mississippi, and in formulating a revised regulating plan for the four Yazoo Basin lakes in Mississippi, which resulted in major enhancements of the flood control capabilities of the lake system.

Banks was also instrumental in support of the Vicksburg District's flood fight and flood control missions through various major flood periods since 1973 in the Mississippi, Yazoo, Ouachita and Pearl River basins, and often served as the District's key spokesman relative to flood situations.

He is a registered professional engineer in Louisiana and a member of the Society of American Military Engineers.

Banks attends Immanuel Baptist Church in Vicksburg, where he serves as a deacon and college and career Sunday school teacher.

He is the son of Charles Banks of Winnsboro, La., and Earline Smith of Winnsboro, La.

Banks and his wife, the former Donnis McKeithen of Baskin, La., have two sons, Bryan and Michael.